

Submitter: Gina Valencia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3507

February 21, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court St NE

Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3507

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Andersen and Members of the Committee:

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon urges your support of HB 3507, which provides critical technical fixes to the state's Culturally Responsive Organization Down Payment Assistance Program.

The Cultural Responsive Organization DPA Program has proven effective to support many individuals and families in their steps to purchase a home. Saving for down payment to buy a house it is not something that most individuals with limited income can afford, specially with the high cost of rental housing. CRO DPA bridges that gap and helps solidify accessing to homeownership.

HB 3507 will further enhance CRO Down Payment Assistance in the following ways:  
Expand eligibility to households earning up to 120 percent of the area median income.

Raise the maximum funding cap for first-time homebuyers to \$40,000.

Increase the maximum funding cap to \$100,000 for first-generation homebuyers, using the current self-attestation method.

Over the past decade, Oregon has primarily relied on the Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP), funded by 14 percent of the document recording fee, as the state's primary source for down payment assistance. Due to high interest rates and a decline in real estate transactions, Oregon Housing and Community Services does not plan to offer any HOAP down payment assistance in the next biennium.

The \$30 million included in the Governor's Recommended Budget to support CRO Down Payment Assistance will ensure current service levels, during this time of document recording fee decline.

The proposed technical fixes will help ensure that organizations like Habitat for Humanity of Oregon can partner with more Oregonians to plant roots in their communities.

Thank you for your consideration and service,

Gina Valencia  
Individual Development Accounts Network Program Manager  
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon